

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

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SUBJECT: NATO-SPAIN COOPERATION

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

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SUMMAR: DRAWING ON REFTEL IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH SYG LUNS, I OUTLINED A PROPOSED PROCEDURE TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE FALL ACTIVATION OF NAVOCFORMED. LUNS REMAINS PROFOUNDLY SKEPTICAL THAT SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS IN NATO WILL ACCEPT ANY DIRECT SPANISH-NATO RELATIONSHIP, EVEN THOUGH HE PERSONALLY SUPPORTS U.S. POSITION. HE SUGGESTED VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS SIMULTANEOUS U.S.-SPANISH AND U.S.-NATO EXERCISES OR PROMOTION OF BILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND FRANCE. END SUMMARY

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1. IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH SYG LUNS ON JULY 2, I RAISED THE SUBJECT OF SPAIN AND NATO. AS A POSSIBLE FIRST STEP TOWARDS GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN NATO AND SAPIN, I SAID WE HAD THE IDEA THAT THERE COULD BE SOME LIMITED SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN

A NAVOCFORMED EXERCISE IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, WHEN THIS NATO FORCE WOULD BE ACTIVATED NEXT. SPANISH UNITS NEED ONLY JOIN THE NATO FORCE FOR 2-3 DAYS, AND JOINTOPERATIONS COULD TAKE PLACE ENTIRELY AT SEA.

2. IN DISCUSSING THIS IDEA WITH OTHERS, I SAID THAT I WOULD LAY EMPHASIS ON THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF SPAIN AND WOULD HAVE CIRCULATED A RATIONALE FOR MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN NATO AND SPAIN. I NOTED THAT THE U.S. MILREP GENERAL MILTON HAD ALREADY RAISED THE MATTER IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE LAST WEEK. I SAID I HAD ASKED DEFAD PRENDERGAST TO FOLLOW-UP WITH SOUNDINGS WITH INDIVIDUAL DELEGATIONS. I SAID I HOPED LUNS WOULD ENCOURAGE OUR ALLIES NOT TO OPPOSE OUR NEW SUGGESTION.

3. LUNS MADE CLEAR THAT HE PERSONALLY FAVORS ENHANCED NATO COOPERATION WITH SPAIN, BUT DOES NOT THINK THE CURRENT U.S. PROPOSAL IS REALISTIC. WHATEVER HE MIGHT SAY ON THE SUBJECT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NATO AND SPAIN, HE WAS CERTAIN THAT EVEN THE HAGUE WOULD VETO IT, IN LIGHT OF THE INFLUENCE OF THE LEFT IN THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT. THE NORWEGIANS WERE LIKELY TO EXPRESS THEIR OPPOSITION AS SOON AS THEY HEARD RUMORS OF THE U.S. IDEA. AMONG THE MORE MODERATE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS, EVEN THE UK WOULD PROBABLY SAY NO, ALTHOUGH THE FRG MIGHT AGREE WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM.

4. IN ORDER TO REACH CONSENSUS ON ANY ACTUAL COOPERATION WITH SPAIN, LUNS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO FIND A FORMULA BY WHICH WE COULD JURIDICALLY SAY IT WAS NOT A NATO MATTER. FOR EXAMPLE, THE U.S. COULD ARRANGE TO HAVE EXERCISES WITH UNITS FROM OTHER NATO COUNTRIES, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO EXERCISE WITH SPAIN --I.E., SIMULTANEOUS U.S.-NATO AND U.S.-SPAIN JOINT EXERCISES. ALTERNATIVELY, THE U.S. COULD TRY "PLAYING IT THROUGH FRANCE." IF FRANCE AND SAPIN WERE TO COOPERATE IN SOME PARTICULAR MILITARY ACTIVITY, THE U.S. COULD STRESS THE CONTRIBUTION TO OVERALL NATO AND WESTERN DEFENSE. HOWEVER, LUNS SAID THE ALLIES WOULD SIMPLY NOT COOPERATE DIRECTLY WITH SPAIN AS LONG AS FRANCO REMAINS
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ALIVE AND IN CHARGE.

5. LUNS AGREED WITH ME THAT IT IS IRONIC THAT ALLIES ARE QUITE WILLING TO MAINTAIN CLOST TRADE LINKS, HIRE SPANISH WORKERS AND SPEND THEIR VACATION IN SPAIN BUT NOT TO USE COOPERATION WITH SPAIN TO ENHANCE THEIR OWN MUTUAL SECURITY.

6. I EXPLAINED TO LUNS THAT I WOULD BE REPORTING TO WASHINGTON ON RESULTS OF OUR INFORMAL NATO CONSULTATIONS ON SPAIN AND SEEKING NEW INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE BRINGING UP MATTER FORMALLY IN THE NAC.
RUMSFELD

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